

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 0395

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CPAS OEXC RO (VROMAN, ROBERT)

SUBJECT: 1972-74 FULBRIGHT LECTURER ROBERT VROMAN - REQUEST FOR
APPEARANCE IN ROMANIAN COURT

1. ON JANUARY 29, EMBASSY CAO RECEIVED LETTER DATED JANUARY 17
FROM SUBJECT WHO WAS EXCHANGE PROGRAM PARTICIPANT HERE DURING
1972-74. VROMAN FORWARDED CITATION DATED JANUARY 8, 1975 DIRECTED TO
HIS
PREVIOUS U.S. ADDRESS FROM BUCHAREST TERRITORIAL MILITARY TRIBUNE
ORDERING HIS APPEARANCE HERE FEBRUARY 6, 1975, TO ANSWER CHARGES
CONCERNING PROPORTED VIOLATION OF SECTION 159 OF ROMANIAN PENAL CODE.
IN VROMAN'S LETTER, HE STATES "I SUSPECT THAT IT MUST HAVE SOMETHING
TO DO WITH MY CAR" AND DESCRIBES IN SOME DETAIL THE COMPLICATED
PROCEDURE PERTAINING TO THE SALE OF HIS PERSONAL AUTOMOBILE PRIOR
TO HIS DEPARTURE FROM ROMANIA.

2. SECTION 159 OF ROMANIAN CODE REFERS TO SECTION 157 WHICH
PROHIBITS "THE TRANSMISSION OF STATE SECRETS TO A FOREIGN POWER
OR ORGANIZATION OR AGENTS." SECTION 159 STATES THAT IF SUCH DEEDS
ARE COMMITTED BY A "FOREIGN CITIZEN OR STATELESS PERSON, "PUNISHMENT
SHALL BE DEATH OR 15-20 YEARS IN PRISON.

3. THE ORDER REQUESTING VROMAN'S APPEARANCE CONTAINS NO DETAILS
REGARDING ACTIVITIES IN WHICH HE IS ALLEGED TO HAVE ENGAGED.

THE ORDER

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DOES POINT OUT, HOWEVER, THAT VROMAN'S NON-APPEARANCE ON FEBRUARY

6 WILL "NOT IMPEDE" THE JUDICIAL PROCESS. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT VROMAN'S SALE OF HIS CAR (WHICH INVOLVED SALE OF GERMAN REGISTERED VEHICLE TO SWISS CITIZEN FOR ULTIMATE "GIFT" TO ROMANIAN NATIONAL FRIEND OF VROMAN) IS OR IS NOT CONNECTED WITH THIS SERIOUS CHARGE.

4. WE ARE NATUREALLY VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THIS CASE, ITS EFFECT ON VROMAN'S ABILITY TO TRAVEL TO ROMANIA IN FUTURE IN CONNECTION WITH PROFESSIONAL STUDIES, AND POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS FOR PRESENT EXCHANGE SCHOLARS IN ROMANIA AND FUTURE AMERICAN PORTION PROGRAM OF EXCHANGES IN GENERAL. WE ARE, HOWEVER, CONVINCED OF NEED TO PROCEED IN LOW-KEY FASHION TO DETERMINE FACTS OF CASE AND SPECIFIC CHARGES. WITH THIS IN MIND, WE RECOMMEND - AND REQUEST DEPARTMENT'S CONCURRENCE - FOLLOWING APPROACH:

A. REQUEST DEPARTMENT CONTACT VROMAN IMMEDIATELY AND EXPLAIN SERIOUS NATURE OF THIS PROVISION ROMANIAN CODE (FYI - HIS CURRENT ADDRESS IS ROBERT BLEY-VROMAN, 2405 E. HELEN STREET, SEATTLE, WASHINGTON. END FYI);

B) AT THE SAME TIME, REQUEST VROMAN PROVIDE DEPARTMENT WITH ANY POSSIBLE INFORMATION ON WHICH SUMMONS COULD BE BASED;

C) WE RECOMMEND VROMAN IMMEDIATELY CONTACT ROMANIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON AND INFORM THEM REGARDING SUMMONS AND REQUEST THEIR ASSISTANCE IN DETERMINING DETAILS OF CHARGES. (FYI - RELEVANT REFERENCE DETAILS ARE: SUMMONS NO. 66, JANUARY 8, 1975, DOSSIER NUMBER 12/1975, SIGNED BY PRESIDENT OF BUCHAREST TERRITORIAL MILITARY TRIBUNE, CALEA PLEVNEI NO. 145, SECTOR 7, BUCHAREST.END FYI)

D) AT THE SAME TIME, WE BELIEVE VROMAN SHOULD INFORM ROMANIAN EMBASSY THAT HE IS CONTACTING THE DEPARTMENT WITH REQUEST THAT U.S. EMBASSY IN BUCHAREST MAKE APPROACH HERE TO AUTHORITIES TO ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN INFORMATION REGARDING THIS ORDER TO APPEAR.

5. IN EMBASSY VIEW, SUCH APPROACH IS BOTH NATURAL AVENUE FOR VROMAN TO TAKE AND MOST USEFUL AND TACTFUL GIVEN COMPLETE LACK OF DETAILS. APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT COMMENT SOONEST, AFTER WHICH EMBASSY WILL MAKE ENQUIRY ON BEHALF VROMAN.

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